

Hi Fans,

And a great big THANK YOU from Richard for all of the get well cards that keep pouring in with wishes for a speedy recovery. In answer to numerous inquiries we've received, I'll fill you in on the details of his accident: On Sunday, January 21st, K & R, Dad, Bear & neighbor toted their 175 & 250 CC Kawasaki cycles to Palmdale to ride on a dry lakebed. The wind there was so extremely strong and bitter cold they decided against it and headed back home. On the way, they passed Claude Osteen's Motor Bike Park and decided to ride their bikes there. After paying their entrance fee, signing in, and unloading their cycles from their van, they took off for what they thought would be a fun day. The park was a huge section of land with many trails which led them over, up, down and around numerous hills and curves, many of these, blind ones. None of the narrow trails were marked in any way to indicate which direction a rider should travel. It was very UNlike our well marked California highways and freeways. Law enforcement in the park was nil. There were riders without helmets, and others were criss-crossing, zig-zagging and riding both directions on both sides of the trails ! Though they avoided the race track section of the park, two very young boys were racing there and these two boys, ages 13 and 15 made a mistake that was to cause Richard untold miseries. The sign posted outside the park stated that no one under 18 was to be admitted without their parents. But somehow the boys, not even old enough for a driver's license, were admitted. While they were racing they drove off the race track and onto the one-bike trail that Richard and his neighbor had taken. But they were headed in opposite directions! Arriving at a very blind curve (approximately 3:30) one youngster hit Richard's friend and the other youngster hit Richard head-on! Three of the people involved in this double accident were able to walk away on their own power. Richard sustained a broken right leg, a broken left wrist and a sprained right wrist. Mom and Dad got him into the car and drove him back to the Downey hospital. There he waited for an hour and a half while Dr. McReynolds, an orthopedist, was called in to treat him. After all X-Rays were taken and all breaks were set, it was an exhausted Richard that limped up the steps of his home. He would not be hospitalized ! The next day was just another work day to Richard so in spite of three casts he managed to arrive at the recording studio to continue work on their next album. Three concerts had been scheduled for February and showman that he is, he flew to Sacramento and Santa Maria for performances. Fortunately, by this time the sprain of the right wrist had healed and the cast was removed. I caught the Anaheim concert and was amazed to see the left hand, still in a cast, play right along with the right hand, even throughout the fast tunes they do so well. Performing "Dead Man's Curve", Richard takes the lead and though his voice is usually soft, I noticed he really comes on strong now during this number. To quote Richard, "Man, can I identify with that (song)". Though he must take time off for check-ups with his doctor now and then, he hasn't missed a day's work. He is feeling fine, though the doctor has told him the healing of his left wrist will be a long slow process.

It will take from 4 months to 2 years for the bone to heal. In the meantime he intends to fulfill all of his concert engagements and if you are lucky enough to see him perform you'll never know he is doing so with a broken wrist unless you happen to see the cast. Each time I see one of their concerts I tell myself, "Surely , they can't improve on a fantastic concert like this." But somehow they always do. Fortunately for Karen, she was a ways behind Richard when the accident occurred so she wasn't involved.

Their new single "SING" is out. It is a catchy tune and one that everyone should learn. The singers in the background are the young Jimmie Joyce singers. Their ages range from 11 to 14. During the recording, Karen stood among these youngsters and sang right along with them using her "little girl" voice. As you know Karen is very versatile and can sing in many voices. We still have no air date for "Robert Young with the Young". Hope you all watch your TV Guides or newspaper listings, as I'm afraid it will be shown early in March and will be all over with by the time you receive this letter. K & R's own TV Special will have to wait for awhile for Richard's recovery. I'll keep you posted. Both K & R hope you enjoyed a happy Valentine's day and send their thanks to you for all of the lovely Valentine's greetings so thoughtfully sent. Souvenirs are still available, though the supply of Carpenter T-shirts is dwindling. There has been a good response on the patches which sell for \$1.00 each. Back issues of Newsletters are 5¢ each or \$1.00 for the set of 23. For new members requesting prices on other items: Pens, 50¢, Pennants, 50¢, Bumper Stickers, 25¢, Wallet pics, 25¢, Boat Posters, Chair Posters and Heart Posters, \$1.00 each, Keychains, 50¢ each. Will try and give you a question and answer session next month in response to numerous requests.

See ya then,

Ev